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**1 Reconsidering custom memory allocation**

Emery D. Berger, Benjamin G. Zorn, Kathryn S. McKinley

November 2002 ACM SIGPLAN Notices , Proceedings of the 17th ACM SIGPLAN conference on Object-oriented programming, systems, languages, and applications, Volume 37 Issue 11Full text available: pdf(344.86 KB) Additional Information: [full citation](#), [abstract](#), [references](#), [citations](#), [index terms](#)

Programmers hoping to achieve performance improvements often use custom memory allocators. This in-depth study examines eight applications that use custom allocators. Surprisingly, for six of these applications, a state-of-the-art general-purpose allocator (the Lea allocator) performs as well as or better than the custom allocators. The two exceptions use regions, which deliver higher performance (improvements of up to 44%). Regions also reduce programmer burden and eliminate a source of memory ...

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